

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 148

By Gravitt

A RESOLUTION to commend Jason Rogers for exemplary service as an intern in the Governor's Office.

WHEREAS, each legislative session this body is pleased to recognize certain persons who have committed themselves, through their adroit service, to the betterment of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Jason Rogers is one such individual who has distinguished himself in his role as an intern for the Governor's Office; Mr. Rogers's work has resulted in innumerable benefits for the Governor's Office and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, eager to familiarize himself with the characteristics and complexities of Tennessee state government and to further his studies, Jason Rogers brought his many abilities and singular expertise to the Constituent Services Department and the Scheduling Department for the Governor's Office; and

WHEREAS, a native of Chattanooga, Jason Rogers is a student in the IDEAL program at Lipscomb University; the IDEAL program provides young adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities opportunities for growth and independence through classes, school sporting events, internships, and activities on campus; and

WHEREAS, a staunch advocate for those with disabilities, Mr. Rogers has volunteered in his community with Kid's Café Inner City Program and the Jordan Thomas Foundation; he competed in the Special Olympics as an athlete, assistant volleyball coach, and certified assistant swim coach; and he participated in Disability Day on the Hill 2017 as a proponent for affordable housing and transportation for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Jason Rogers demonstrated his impressive athletic abilities when he cycled from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, in May 2016, to raise money for adaptive sports and the Wounded Warriors Project; he also rode a tandem bicycle with his

father from Charlotte, North Carolina, to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, to raise funds for athletes with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, extending his community outreach, he participated in four mission trips to Chicago, New Orleans, Nicaragua, and Honduras, and organized a shoe drive to benefit the people of Haiti following a devastating earthquake in 2010, collecting a total of 2,000 pairs of shoes; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his noteworthy accomplishments, Jason Rogers received the Presidential Service Award in 2001 and the "Heart of a Champion" Award from the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 2016. He was named United Way of Chattanooga Volunteer of the Year in 2002, Special Olympics Athlete of the Year in 2013, and Ambassador of Tennessee Special Olympics in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Jason Rogers has surpassed all criteria that define a devoted and conscientious intern and he has performed his many duties with extraordinary insight and rare decorum; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Jason Rogers for outstanding service as an intern for the Governor's Office and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.